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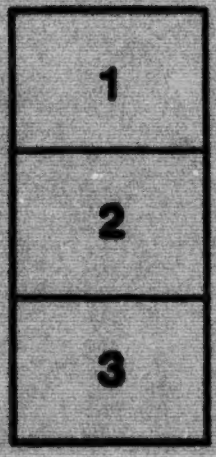

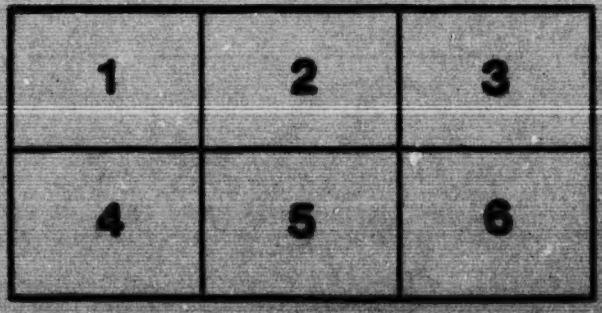

MANIFESTO

OF THE

RIGHT HON. SIR ROBERT BOND,

P.C., K.C.M.G., PREMIER.

1904
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MANIFESTO

—OF THE—

Rt. Hon. Sir R. Bond, PC., K.C.M.G

Premier.

To The Electors of Newfoundland:

GENTLEMEN,--

FOUR years have elapsed since it was my privilege to appeal to you in support of my Government. I did so then in full reliance on a hearty and generous reponse, nor was that faith and trust ill-requited, for you responded to that appeal in a manner unexampled in the history of this or any other British colony, every district in the country returning my party representatives, excepting only the two districts of Bonavista and Port de Grave.

With even greater confidence I now approach you, and again solicit your support of the Government I have the honour to lead. I say with greater confidence, because in the year 1900 my Government had only been a few months in office, and consequently its record could not claim your attention; and further, at that time a general feeling of distrust had been awakened by the unpatriotic and discreditable conduct of those who had recently been the recipients of your confidence and favour.

I appeal to you with greater confidence to-day, because I am conscious of having performed, as leader of the Government, the whole of my duty to you according to my lights and the best of my ability; because, faithfully and ably assisted by those gentlemen whom you returned to support me, I can point to a record of public service on the part of the Government **that has resulted in more widespread prosperity, and in greater progress and contentment than has ever before been enjoyed in this land.**

While I feel that I may confidently appeal for a favourable verdict upon the past services of my Government, I shall not rest my claim for future support upon these alone. The work of the Liberal Party is not done yet. In the changed circumstances of the times we find opportunities for further usefulness and greater reforms. But, before dealing with the latter, it will be instructive to review the record of the Government for the past four years, for down through

38644

the ages has come the declaration that men shall be adjudged by their deeds, not by their professions or their promises as to the future. In the light of this knowledge the present Government fearlessly approach the Electorate—the grand inquest of the country—satisfied that their claims will receive a dispassionate, unprejudiced and honourable consideration.

What Has the Present Government Done for the Colony During the Past Four Years?

This question has been more than once captiously asked by the opponents of the Government. The time has now arrived to furnish the answer and I shall proceed to do so:—

When the present Government assumed office the whole Railway system of the colony, which cost the tax-payers the sum of Twelve million dollars, was the property of R. G. Reid, having been bartered away to him by the former Government for one-twelfth of its actual cost. The present Government, immediately upon coming into office, passed an Act through the Legislature, taking back the fee-simple or ownership, of the railway, returning to Mr. Reid the consideration he paid for it, and to-day it is the property of the people of this country.

In connection with the transfer of the railway to R. G. Reid under the Railway Act of 1898, some Two millions and a half acres of the best lands in the colony were also transferred to him. Included in this enormous area were lands held under mining and timber leases by a number of enterprising proprietors; homesteads that had been established by the thrift and industry of hundreds of poor settlers, and more than Eight hundred thousand acres of timber land within three miles of the sea, which it had ever been the policy of the Liberal Party **to reserve for the exclusive use of the fishermen of the colony.**

The present Government, as one of their first acts, took back those lands from R. G. Reid, returned to poor settlers and mining and timber proprietors the areas of which they had been despoiled, set apart for the use of the fishermen all the lands within three miles of the sea, and placed at the disposal of any and all who were prepared to comply with the condition of payment prescribed by law the balance remaining. More than seven hundred thousand acres of land so taken back from R. G. Reid are to-day held under timber and mining leases, which yield annual payments that largely augment, and will continue to swell, the revenue of the colony.

In view of the abuse and misrepresentation that have been showered upon the Government in this connection by their opponents, it will surprise some to learn that, **as a result of the land policy of the Government,** the revenue of the colony from Crown Lands has increased Four hundred and seventy-five per cent. in the past four years; in other words, the receipts from Crown Lands in 1899-1900 were only Nine thousand Five hundred and five Dollars, while for the year ending June, 1904, they amounted to Forty-four thousand Six hundred and thirty-two Dollars.

Under the Railway Contract of 1898, the telegraph lines, which had cost the people of the Colony about one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, were handed over to R. G. Reid, and he was thus given a practical monopoly of the telegraph as a business medium.

The present Government took back those telegraph lines, thus restoring the entire confidence of the people in the service, which to-day is combined with the Postal service, and the public receives the benefit of a **reduction of fifty per cent. on all messages transmitted within the Colony.**

When we undertook the Government, there was no law under which the railway contractor could be held responsible for cattle which were destroyed by his trains. The present Government immediately passed an Act compelling the contractor either to fence the line of railway or pay for the cattle which might be destroyed by his trains.

It will be remembered that four years ago an attempt was made by the railway contractor to relieve himself from all responsibility for accidents or injury to his employes. The present Government immediately grappled with this condition of things by passing an Act rendering such an Agreement null and void.

The notorious Railway Deal of 1898 **embraced the Bay Steam Service of the Colony and provided a scale of charges that weighed most heavily upon the travelling public and business community,** hampering them materially in their movements and business, while at the same time no provision was made therein to meet the requirements of the people of the North-East Coast and that important section of the country between St. John's and Placentia.

The present Government, in order to remedy this condition of affairs, negotiated a contract for a Coastal Service, north and south, to be performed by steamers specially built for those services, having abundant freight and passenger accommodation, and being equipped with all modern appointments for the comfort of the travelling public. A scale of reasonable charges for passenger and freight traffic was also arranged, thus adding to the convenience of the travelling public, and facilitating trade. While this contract has secured a steam service never equalled in this colony, it has also been the means of reforming, in a great measure, the steam service conducted by the railway contractors, which, heretofore, was a source of continual annoyance to the public.

The present Government have extended the telegraph system to the Labrador, connecting the principal harbours, thus bringing the fishermen on that coast into touch with each other, enabling them to ascertain the movements of the fish on that coast, and to communicate speedily with their homes, or with St. John's.

The present Government, during the last four years, have erected **Eighteen Lighthouses and Five Fog Alarms,** for the protection of the lives and property of the fishermen, and for the development of the maritime commerce of the country, which is largely dependent on the perfection of its coast signals.

The present Government, during the past four years, have granted Seventy-six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars for Marine Works—that is to say, for the erection of public wharves, landings and breakwaters—recognizing such works as essential to the large number of fishermen scattered along our coast line.

The present Government have provided by Legislation for the establishment of a trade in fresh fish of all kinds, and for the erection of bait depots along the coast for the supply of bait fishes to the fishermen of the colony.

The present Government have fostered mining enterprise by placing all mining implements and machinery on the free list, and by holding out a bounty for the smelting of iron ore and the working of coal measures.

The present Government have promoted agriculture by continuing the payment of a bounty for the clearing and cultivating of land, by the free admission of farming implements of all kinds, and of cattle feed that cannot be produced here.

The present Government have encouraged the lumbering industry by cancelling the lien given by the late Government to R. G. Reid, under the 1898 railway contract, on all timber leases held in the Colony, thus securing mill proprietors in their holdings, and also by judiciously dealing with *bona fide* capitalists.

The present Government have increased the grant for education twenty-five per cent., or by the sum of forty thousand one hundred and fifty-five dollars, during the past four years; have established upon a firm basis manual training or industrial education, and, with the hearty co-operation of all denominations, have provided for amalgamated schools in settlements too small to maintain denominational schools. Statistics will prove that they have done more generally to improve the status of education in the Colony than any of their predecessors, and more financially than had been done during the whole period of twenty-five years previous to their assuming office.

The present Government have **reduced taxation by more than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars per annum.** By taking off the special tax of ten per cent. upon all duties collected, which was imposed by the late Government, and distributing eight per cent. over commodities that could bear it and upon those who could afford to pay it, the poorest classes were relieved of taxation amounting to more than Thirty-six Thousand Dollars per annum; **and by admitting lines and twines, salt, flour, molasses and kerosene oil free of duty,** the total reduction of taxation is as above stated.

The present Government succeeded in making a Treaty with the United States, which means, when ratified, the opening up of a free market for the products of our fisheries and mines amongst Eighty Millions of people.

The present Government succeeded in bringing about a settlement of the French Shore Question, which is calculated to solve many of the difficulties under which the Colony has laboured for centuries.

That Convention has been passed by the British Parliament, and will be ratified by France when its Parliament meets in November. I believe that its adoption will mark an era from which will date wider enterprise, greater prosperity and increased happiness in this Colony. It is intended to settle and will settle forever, the anomalies, the vexations, the injustices that have existed for so long a period on the Treaty Shore. For the peaceful settlement of this vexed question, for the healing of this open sore, for this termination of patient suffering on the part of our people, the present Government may justly claim your approbation.

I think I am correct in saying that the foregoing is a record of which any Government might well feel proud; that it is a record that must be convincing in itself to the Electors of the Colony generally, irrespective of party leanings or proclivities. But it does not represent by any means the whole of what has been accomplished by the Government during the past four years. If you desire to know more of what has been experienced, I would respectfully suggest to you to look around you, and, in the absence of able-bodied pauperism, in the comfort and happiness of the homes throughout the land, in the increased earning power of the people, in the ever-enlarging volume of trade and commerce, you have reflected the result of a careful, honest and stable Government, working harmoniously for the common good, and blessed in their labours by Divine Providence.

If you compare the condition of things to-day with the condition of things that existed four years ago, when the present Government entered upon the duties you confided in them, there is no man, I care not how partisan he may be, who can judicially look at the position then and now without coming to the conclusion that we have emerged from almost midnight darkness into the clear light of a new day.

In making this statement, I am appealing to the conscience of the country, not to its imagination or passions.

You will have in recollection that widespread demoralization consequent upon **the wholesale distribution of able-bodied pauper relief marked the advent of the late administration,** the enormous sum of Two hundred and Ten Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-six Dollars having been expended by them on that account during their first six months of office, and that to such a condition were the finances of the Colony brought by that party that the then Minister of Finance declared, in introducing the Budget. "it was necessary to solicit aid from some quarter or other in order to carry the "heavy responsibilities."

You will also have in mind the disorganisation of the Civil Service following upon their unjustifiable dismissal of unoffending and capable officials; **their unpatriotic and reprehensive conduct in connection with the transfer of the Railway and other Assets of the Colony;** and the general distrust that was awakened throughout the country by the disgraceful exhibition of a Ministry rent asunder by internal dissentions in the struggle for personal aggrandisement.

You will further remember that such was the state of the Colony and such the circumstances under which the present Government entered upon their duties. Backed by the moral support of nearly the whole people of the country, we were enabled to cope with and overcome the difficulties of the situation, and we have the satisfaction of seeing the Colony to-day in a more prosperous and contented condition than it ever was before.

This is made manifest by the following facts, namely :—

1. The expenditure on account of able-bodied pauperism has been brought down from nearly a quarter of a million dollars (expended by the late Government in 1898) to the insignificant sum of Fifteen hundred Dollars per annum.

2. The earnings of the people have increased from Thirty-nine Dollars and Fifty-seven cents per capita in 1899 to Forty-four Dollars and Twenty-four cents this year.

3. The earnings of a family, taking the average of five to each, has increased from One hundred and Ninety-seven Dollars in 1899 to Two hundred and Twenty-One Dollars in 1904.

4. The Imports have increased from Seven millions Four hundred and Ninety-seven Dollars in 1899 to Nine millions Four hundred and Eighty thousand Dollars in 1904.

5. The Exports have increased from Eight Millions Six hundred and Twenty-seven thousand Dollars in 1899 to Ten millions Three hundred and Eighty thousand dollars in 1904.

6. The deposits in the Newfoundland Savings Bank for the year 1899 amounted to Two hundred and Sixty-nine thousand Eight hundred and Thirteen Dollars, while the deposits for the past year were Four hundred and Sixty-nine thousand Six hundred and Ninety-four dollars, being an increase of Two hundred thousand Dollars. **The total amounts on deposit in the Newfoundland Savings Bank** at the end of 1899 was One million One hundred and four thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-eight Dollars, and at the end of the past year One million Five hundred and Ninety-one thousand Nine hundred and Twenty-four dollars, being an increase for the four years of nearly a half a million dollars. **There are three other Savings Banks in the city whose receipts are not published, but I have reason to know that they show a corresponding increase.**

While the greater volume of trade and commerce indicates the prosperity of those engaged therein, the increase in the deposits of our Savings Banks reflects the improved condition of the working man.

As evidencing the widening avenues of employment for the people of the country, I would point to the fact that the value of the Exports of Lumber have increased from One hundred thousand Two hundred and Eight dollars in 1899 to Three hundred and Seventy thousand Five hundred dollars in 1904; that the Exports of Minerals have increased from One million Forty-three thousand Dollars in 1899 to One million Two hundred and Forty-eight thousand Six hundred and Sixty Dollars in 1904; and that the Exports from the Whaling Industry have increased from Thirty-six thousand Four hundred and Twenty-eight Dollars in 1899 to Three hundred and Sixty-five thousand Nine hundred and Fifty-three Dollars in 1904. It will hardly be questioned, I think, that this increased production represents increased labour, and that there is no feature of the situation more satisfactory than the immense improvement which has taken place in the condition of the working classes during the last four years.

This condition of the people, and of the laboring classes in particular, has been still further improved by the reduction in taxation made by the Government last session, which is equal to One Dollar per head of the whole population of the Colony. To the poorer classes it means more than One Dollar per head, for, as the largest consumers of flour and molasses, they derive the chief benefit from the free list.

Judged, then, by all available tests, both the total wealth and the diffused well-being of the Colony are greater than they have ever been before. But, as I have previously remarked, I shall not rest my claim for your future support solely upon the past services of the Government, for the work of the Liberal Party, which I have the honor to lead, is not done yet. We have so far paved the way only for further usefulness and greater reforms.

After the election is over, and we return strengthened by your renewed sympathy and support, we shall continue in that straight line of duty that we marked out four years ago and have consistently followed to the present.

1st. The preposterous claims arising out of the Railway Deal of 1898 shall be resisted, and the Contractors shall be compelled to respect their obligations to the public.

The public are to-day faced with a claim from the Railway Contractors amounting to Three Millions of Dollars in connection with the Telegraph Lines, which were given away to R. G. Reid in 1898, and were pronounced by the Government then in power to be worthless to the Colony.

I deem it proper to remind you that the man mainly responsible for that Railway Deal, and the claims arising out of it, is Mr. Morine, the standing solicitor for the Reid-Newfoundland Company and the actual leader of the Opposition to the present Government, and also to ask you if you are prepared to return him and his associates to power, and to entrust to him and them this vital matter.

I also consider it well to remind you that Sir William Whiteway who recently sought admission into the ranks of the party of which the Reid Company's solicitor is the actual leader, and who has declared his opposition to the present Government, was the retained solicitor for the Reid Company in their former outrageous claim against the Colony, and also to ask you the question whether you are prepared to entrust **to him** the conduct of your case.

As germane to this question I would observe that it has been alleged by my opponents that Reid's former claim of Two million Four hundred thousand Dollars arose out of the 1901 Railway Contract. I would state that the assertion is absolutely incorrect. When the present Government entered into office they found filed in the Colonial Secretary's Department an account from R. G. Reid, in which he claimed under the 1893 and 1898 Contracts the sum of One Million Two Hundred and Seventy-seven Thousand Dollars; that the late Government had paid Reid One Million Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Dollars **on account,** leaving a balance of Two Hundred and Sixty-eight Thousand Dollars, on the understanding, as stipulated by Minute of the Executive Council, dated February 3rd, 1900, "**that the payments thus made would be without prejudice to the claims of either party to the Contracts, and solely as a payment on account.**" The difference between the above stated account and the claim that went before the Arbitrators appeared as for work and materials supplied between the date of that account (1899) and the year 1902. This statement of fact will, no doubt, come to many as a surprise. For months I have patiently submitted to an infamous falsehood freely circulated by my political opponents concerning a letter addressed by me as Colonial Secretary to R. G. Reid, under date July 24th, 1901, and termed by them, for the purpose of deceiving the public and of vilifying me a "**secret letter.**" That letter was drafted at a full meeting of the Executive Council and embodied the unanimous decision of that Executive, which was not to take advantage of any mere formalities to

deprive the Contractor of what he might be able to prove was honestly due him. The letter was neither "secret" nor personal, but an undertaking in ordinary official form, on the part of the Executive Government to carry out the decision and pledge of their predecessors in office "that the payments made by them were to be without prejudice to the claim of either party to the Contract." But **the most important point**, however, for the Electors to consider is that, while Messrs. Morine and Whiteway, Solicitors for Reid, contended that his claim for nearly Two millions and a half of dollars was justly due. the present Government repudiated it, and succeeded before a Court of Arbitration, in having it brought down to one-third of that amount.

The future advancement of our country so largely depends upon the manner in which the Reid-Newfoundland Company's claims are dealt with by the Government, that I point the foregoing questions and state the above facts. It is for you to determine whether that future will be entrusted to **those who have been paid by the Company to fight its claims against the people of the Colony**, or to the present Government who have thus far successfully resisted such claims on your behalf.

2nd. The Government are to-day making arrangements whereby not only the Telegraphs but the Cable business of the Colony also will be under their control, and cheaper cable rates will be secured to the business community. These arrangements shall be brought to an early conclusion.

3rd. By the invitation of His Majesty's Government I was privileged to join in framing the Regulations for the carrying out of the French Shore Treaty. Those Regulations have been carefully framed to conserve the rights of the people of the Colony. They shall be carried out in accordance with their true intent and meaning, and the Shore privileges, that, after November next, will be exclusively the property of the Government of the Colony, shall be fairly and justly disposed of to those desirous of carrying on the fisheries from that coast. In this connection I may observe that the Bait Act remains unimpaired, and will continue to be enforced.

4th. The policy that I inaugurated last Session for the establishment of an export trade in fresh fish of all kinds, and for the erection of Bait Depots for the supply of bait fishes to the fishermen of the Colony, shall be adhered to.

5th. During my recent visit to Great Britain I tok occasion to make inquiry into the conduct of the Scotch Herring Fishery. As a result of my enquiry, I am convinced that we have, **in the abundance of herring found off the coast of this Colony, a source of wealth nothing inferior to that of the cod-fishery**, provided proper methods of curing and packing for market are adopted. To-day the European product has a preference in the world's markets. Herrings taken off the coasts of Scotland and Ireland command from 50 to 100 per cent more in London and Continental markets than the catch of this side of the Atlantic, and in Canada are even displacing the domestic products. I shall take necessary steps to make the fishermen and fish merchants familiar with the methods by which fancy prices are obtained for the catch of herrings off the Scotch and Irish coasts.

6th. During my visit to England I had the privilege of conferring with the Right Honourable the Secretary for Scotland in reference to the prosecution of the Whale Fishery. That gentleman has recently caused an inquiry to be made respecting the prosecution of that Industry off the coasts of Norway and Scotland. I have been favoured with all the evidence collected and with the conclusion of the Committee of Invistigation. The information at my dispesal shall be used for the benefit of all who are interested in that important industry, and before more licenses to capture whales are issued, enquiry shall be made as to the effect of that industry upon the other fisheries of the Colony.

7th. In view of the fact that the well-being of the people of this country is so largely dependent upon the success of the fishermen, and that, in all other countries where the fisheries are regarded as of importance, scientific oversight and direction is considered essential, I shall take immediate steps to bring the Fishery Department up to a proper state of efficiency.

8th. As you are aware in the year 1902 I succeeded in negotiating a Treaty with the Government of the United States of America for a measure of reciprocal trade. Up to date, by reason of the opposition of the fishery interests of Gloucester, the ratification of that Treaty has been held in abeyance, while the opponents of the measure have been enjoying the privileges that this Colony was to confer in exchange for free admission of the products of our mines and fisheries to the markets of the United States. The Government have permitted this, believing that at the recent Session of the Senate the Treaty would be confirmed. It is neither politic nor profitable that this condition of things shall continue indefinitely. Unless the present movement in the United States looking to the ratification of our Convention is successful, I shall at the next session of the Legislature adopt another course of procedure.

9th. Next in importance to the fisheries is the Mining Industry. The Government have fostered it in the manner that I have previously described, but it appears to me that something further can be done by assisting in the examination of mineral deposits and the smelting of ores. This industry shall receive further encouragement.

10th. The Lumber Industry shall be fostered, There is but very little doubt but that the greater part of the immense destruction of forest wealth and loss of other property, that has taken place during the past year, has been occasioned by the Railway locomotives. The Government of the Dominion of Canada found it necessary last year to enact a Law compelling the Railway Companies to maintain and "keep its right of way free from dead or dry grass, weeds and other unnecessary combustible matter," and providing that "whenever damage is caused to lands, crops, fences, plantations or buildings and their contents by fire started by a Railway locomotive, the Company making use of such locomotive, whether guilty of negligence or not, shall be liable for such damage."

A Bill upon these lines shall be enacted, and other steps taken to promote the continuance and development of this Industry.

11th.—The Agricultural interests of the country shall be still further fostered. In view of the settlement of the Treaty Shore Question, and the removal of those obstacles that have barred the advancement of the West Coast which is properly regarded as embracing the best agricultural lands in the Island, the Government have this summer had surveying parties marking out lines of road through the lands in that vicinity, intending at the next session of the Legislature to introduce a measure to encourage settlement on what was known as the Treaty Coast, and, at the same, to turn to profitable account fertile lands elsewhere in the Island.

12th.—The effort commenced to determine the value of the Coal Areas shall be continued until their true value has been clearly demonstrated.

13th.—Education, for which the present Government have done so much, as I have already shown, shall receive a further substantial grant.

14th.—The Government's policy of reducing taxation, when the revenues of the Colony appear to warrant it, shall be continued and a careful regard for the interests of all classes in the community shall be preserved.

15th.—The Civil List shall be carefully revised, with a view to the proper recognition of faithful public service and greater efficiency,—and

LASTLY:

As the question of Confederation has been brought prominently before the public by the action and attitude of my opponents, I consider it proper to emphasize the official declaration that the Government has already made in regard to the question. The Government as a united body have declared that **so far as they are aware "there is no desire on the part of the people of this Colony to be included as a Constituent part of the Dominion of Canada. but, on the contrary, the desire is evident that the Colony should retain its autonomy, and continue to maintain an honourable and independent position as part of the British Empire."**

After giving careful consideration to the question as it has been presented to me, and weighing the advantages and disadvantages that Union with the Dominion of Canada would bring to the people of this Country, after perusing the declarations of the Canadian Press as to the methods that some of the Canadian advocates for Union purpose to employ in this Colony to bring about that Union, I am convinced that it would not be to the political, commercial or moral advantage of the people of this Country to join in that movement. My watchword to my fellow-countrymen is, therefore,

NO CONFEDERATION!

With the desire of serving my country and people I have given twenty-two of the best years of my life to the public interests, devoting the whole of my time and attention to the duties that have been assigned to me. In the darkest days that our land has witnessed, when financial disaster like a whirlwind had shattered the hopes as well as the fortunes of hundreds of our people; when those with whom I was then associated in the Government despaired of restoring the credit of the Colony, I volunteered to go abroad and obtain a loan to tide the Colony over its difficulties, and I succeeded. When, at a later date, my present political opponents bartered away every asset that the Colony possessed, its railway, dock, telegraphs and lands, under the threat of "bankruptcy," and other of my opponents, who now profess an interest in the country and its people, were silent and indifferent to what happened, I raised the Standard of Revolt against that iniquitous policy, carried the war into the Districts, and on the floor of the House of Assembly wrested the Government from the people's enemies. Four years ago, when, as one of my opponents admits, "a determined attempt was made (by the present opposition) to capture the House of Assembly in the interest of R. G. Reid, and to destroy Responsible Government by the transfer of its Legislative and Executive powers to the offices of that Government Contractor;" and, when Sir William Whiteway aided neither by voice nor pen nor money in the defence of the liberties of the people, I organized a party, which, supported by almost the unanimous vote of the Country, overwhelmed the would-be-usurpers, maintained the glorious privilege and freedom of Responsible Government, and placed this Country in the magnificent position that it occupies to-day. I ask you to consider these facts.

Sir William Whiteway declares in his Manifesto, **"the position to-day, though perhaps less pronounced, is in reality the same as it was at the last election, and calls for equally firm and determined action."** That is to say, that another attempt is to be made "to transfer the Executive powers of the Government to the office of R. G. Reid." If this be true, and I do not deny it, is his the hand to wrest victory from the struggle that is about to take place? Is it to him who, when the said R. G. Reid two years ago endeavoured to wring Two and a half Millions of Dollars from the people of the Colony, sold his service to the said Reid. I repeat, is it to Sir Wm. Whiteway that the people have to look to for safety? Is it upon Sir William Whiteway who, in the hour of the Colony's trial, forsook the Liberal Party, and as a result to-day can obtain no following save three or four supporters of the notorious Reid Railway Deal who have fallen out with their legitimate leader, that the Colony has to depend for safety? I am content to await the answer at the polls.

Remember that Sir William Whiteway is a pronounced Confederate; that Mr. Donald Morison, his lieutenant, is an avowed Confederate; that Mr. Morine, the actual leader of the Opposition, is an ardent Confederate, and that the Reid-Newfoundland Company, whose standing Solicitor he is, have more to gain than any other persons in the world by the confederation of this country with Canada, for their securities and interests would be benefited thereby to an enormous extent.

The electors of the country would do well to consider the political game of deception that is being played by the opponents of the Government, and to recognize that the Opposition forces, apparently divided, are united in a common object. Ask yourselves the question: If Sir William Whiteway does not desire to play into the hands of Reid and Morine, why does he attempt with the aid of a few dismembered Tories to split the Liberal Vote? If he is not in sympathy with Mr. Morine's aims and ambitions, how came it that a few weeks ago he negotiated with Mr. Morine for a political alliance? The *Daily News*, the organ of the Morine branch of the Opposition, has recently admitted that the said negotiation did take place.

ELECTORS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

I have placed the issue fairly before you, and have portrayed as concisely as possible the record of the present Government during the past four years, and its policy as regards the future. I have contented myself with putting forward questions respecting the attitude of my opponents, leaving you to consider the same and form your own conclusions.

If my past record and that of my Government merits your approbation, and our future policy commends itself to your judgment; if you agree with me that union with Canada is neither necessary or desirable, and that the policy of the present Government will best conserve the general interests of the country, then let there be no division in our ranks, and let all our energies be combined, not only to make this country a home to be loved, but a home to be respected.

Faithfully yours,

R. BOND.

St. John's, September 22nd, 1904.